

ALL HANDS

MAGAZINE OF THE U.S. NAVY NOVEMBER 1998

西太平洋

The **FACE** of the
FAR EAST

DUTY IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC

November

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More so than anywhere else in the world, the U.S. Navy's commitment to the Western Pacific exemplifies forward presence. Sailors of the 7th Fleet live and work in one of the most volatile and exotic areas of the world. From Russia to Australia, WestPac Sailors live the adventure... everyday.



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U.S. Navy photo

So, you're thinking of asking for orders to WestPac. A wise choice. It could be your

most exciting, challenging and rewarding tour ever. But before you make a decision one way or the other... let us show you around. There is so much to see!



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Photo by CDR Dana Pettis

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All Hands (USPS 372-970; ISSN 0002-5577). (Number 979) is published by the Naval Media Center, Publishing Division, Naval Station Anacostia, Bldg. 168, 2701 S. Capitol St., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20373-5819 and additional mailing offices.

Subscriptions: For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402; (202) 512-1800.

Postmaster: Send address changes to All Hands, Naval Media Center, Publishing Division, Naval Station Anacostia, Bldg. 168, 2701 S. Capitol St., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20373-5819

Editorial Offices: Send submissions and correspondence to Naval Media Center, Publishing Division, ATTN: Editor, Naval Station Anacostia, Bldg. 168, 2701 S. Capitol St., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20373-5819
Tel: (202) 433-4171 or DSN 288-4171
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Message: NAVMEDIACEN WASHINGTON DC //32//

Authorization: The Secretary of the Navy has determined this publication is necessary in the transaction of business required by law of the Department of the Navy. Funds for printing this publication have been approved by the Navy Publications and Printing Committee.

"Travel is fatal to prejudice,
bigotry and narrow-mindedness.
Broad, wholesome, charitable views
of men and things cannot be
acquired by vegetating in one little
corner of the Earth all one's lifetime."
- Mark Twain

Photo by HM1 Tim Wermers



30 Liberty Call! Liberty Call! All Hands, Liberty Call!

Start building your own memories by visiting the hundreds of exotic locales spread all across the Western Pacific.

40 Kamikaze

Kaoru Hasegawa was 21 years old in 1945 and a lieutenant in the Japanese Imperial Navy when he was ordered to attack USS *Callaghan* (DD 792) and sink her... at all costs.

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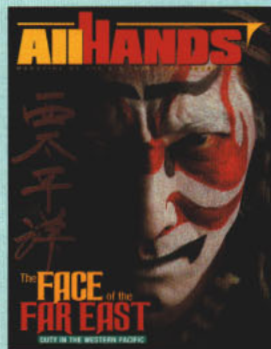


Photo courtesy of Kaoru Hasegawa



Photo by PH3 Brent Ohliser

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On the Cover

For nearly 400 years Kabuki theater has been a popular form of entertainment in Japan. It is a rich blending of realism and formalism, of music, dance, mime and spectacular costuming and makeup.

Photo by JO1 Robert Benson
Modeled by Yusuke Honda
Makeup by Liz Stevens



On the Back Cover

A member of the U.S. Navy's "Dragon Boat" team scans the waterline behind her for any glimpse of the finish line. Okinawa's annual "Dragon Boat" races date back to the 13th century and are believed to bring comfort to the dead and good luck to fisherman.

Photo by JO2 Cynthia Roberts

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www.chinfo.navy.mil/navpalib/allhands/ah-top.html

WestPac

Dawn approaches. The horizon begins to glow as the Sun's golden rays slowly climb over eastern hills and turn the sky into fire. The sea is clear and calm as fishing boats make their lazy way home. Sailors wait anxiously on the deck of USS *Blue Ridge* (LCC 19) for the brightly-colored liberty boats that will ferry them to the glistening, white sands of Pattaya Beach, Thailand.

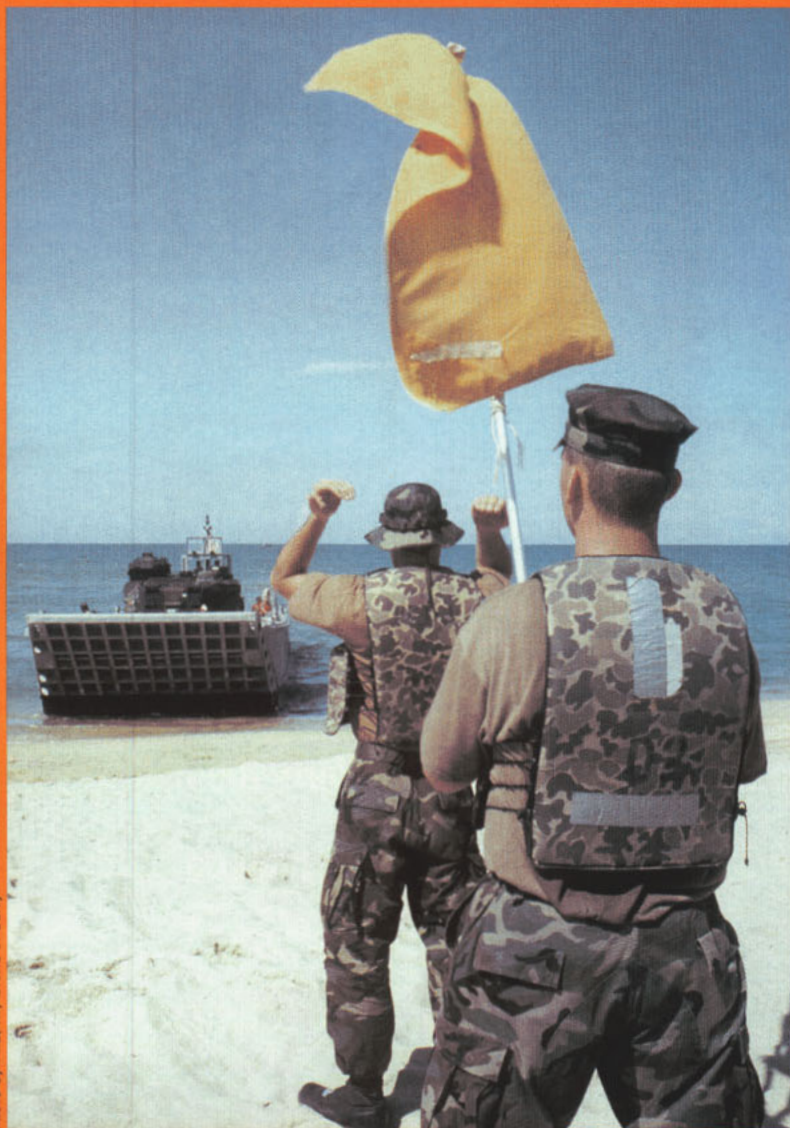
The day has begun. The adventure is here. The Western Pacific is calling.



U.S. Navy photo

“The intensity level is higher here than anywhere else in the world. You can never lose your edge because every day is a new challenge. If anything ever happens, we’ll be the first to be called.”

— EM3 Jubal Castilla, USS Thach (FFG 43)



A crew from Beach Master Unit 1 provides traffic control to effectively direct arriving craft to the landing zone during a recent exercise in Thailand. The U.S. 7th Fleet conducts exercises every year with many of the nations in the Western Pacific.



People's Liberation Army (Navy) Sailors march past USS *Blue Ridge* (LCC 19) upon the ship's arrival in Quindao, China.

That area of the world known as the Western Pacific has no real boundaries. That is to say, there are no specific landmasses which give it a definite shape. The term WestPac loosely applies to an area which runs along the international dateline west of Hawaii to the border of the Indian Ocean, and from the Kuril Islands south to Antarctica. It remains one of the most diverse areas of the world and is home to the U.S. 7th Fleet.

7th Fleet — Forward Presence

More so than anywhere else in the world, the U.S. Navy's commitment to the Western Pacific exemplifies forward presence. The explosive economic potential of the region makes it vital to American trade. Its volatility necessitates vigilance. 7th Fleet is forward deployed

Russian soldiers await the arrival of USS *Blue Ridge* (LCC 19), flagship for Commander 7th Fleet, during the ship's port visit to Vladivostok, Russia.

Photo by PH2(SW) Jett Dempsey



USS *Belleau Wood* (LHA 3) is part of the forward-deployed surface fleet homeported in Japan.



Photo by PH1 Michael Shirley

to prevent aggression and to respond, at a moment's notice, when unchecked aggression translates into hostile action.

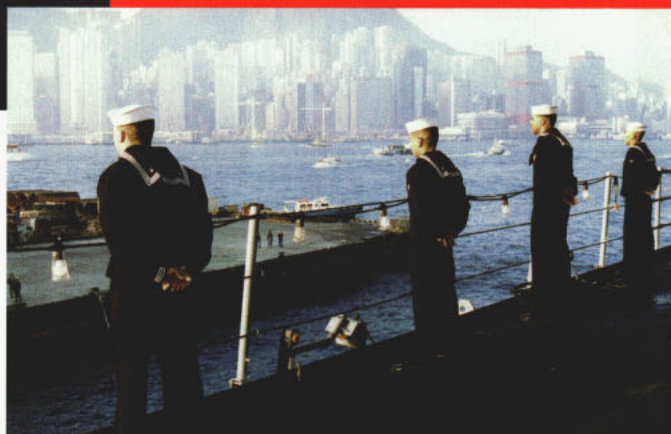
The 7th Fleet patrols the waters of the Western Pacific and Indian Oceans, an area totaling more than 52 million square miles. Typically, the fleet has 50 to 60 ships, including carrier battle groups, amphibious ready groups and logistic support ships, with the core of these forces based in Japan and Guam.

In addition to the fleet's flagship, USS *Blue Ridge* (LCC 19), USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) and her battle group operate from Fleet Activities Yokosuka. The *Kitty Hawk's* air wing, Carrier Air Wing 5, resides at Naval Air Facility Atsugi. From Sasebo, USS *Belleau Wood's* (LHA 3) amphibious ready group, which includes USS *Dubuque* (LPD 8), USS *Germantown* (LSD 42) and USS *Fort McHenry* (LSD

43), stand ready to transport Marines from Okinawa to exercises and operations anywhere in theater. Sasebo is also the forward-deployed home of USS *Guardian* (MCM 5) and USS *Patriot* (MCM 7).

From Guam, USS *Frank Cable* (AS 40) provides mobile repair services to 7th Fleet ships and Military Sealift Command maintains logistics support ships in Guam's Apra Harbor.

Vital shore installations can be found in Japan, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and Guam. In addition to providing ship repair and supply support to 7th Fleet ships and aircraft, these facilities work hand-in-hand with their local military counterparts and communities.



U.S. NAVY PHOTO

Sailors on board USS *Blue Ridge* (LCC 19) man the rails as the ship pulls into port on the Kowloon side of Hong Kong early in the morning. USS *Blue Ridge* has made Hong Kong one of its most frequent stops when leaving home port in Yokosuka, Japan.

Sailors live, work and play alongside the local population, take part in civic action efforts to improve the lives of the people living in surrounding areas, and help define America in the Far East.

Yokosuka



According to Buddhist belief, during Obon, the Japanese festival of the dead, the spirits of ancestors return to Earth. Lanterns are lit, which relatives float out to sea, to greet and say goodbye to the visiting spirits.

A little girl dances in the annual Cherry Blossom Festival held at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan.



Sumo wrestlers in Yokosuka, Japan, engage in fierce fighting during tournament competition. The fighting art of "Sumo" dates back 2,000 years and is considered to be the national sport of the country.



Photo by PH3 Greg Mitchell



Fast Facts

Location: Southeast of Kanagawa Prefecture and in the middle of the Miura Peninsula; faces Tokyo Bay on the east and Sagami Bay on the west. The city is within 65 miles of Tokyo and 30 miles from Yokohama. Yokosuka is the largest, most strategically-important overseas U.S. naval installation in the world.

Major commands: Commander, 7th Fleet; Commander, Naval Forces Japan; Commander, Destroyer Squadron 15; Commander, Submarine Group 7; USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63); USS *Blue Ridge* (LCC 19); Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka; Afloat Training Group Western Pacific; Navy Center for Tactical Systems Interoperability Det. 5; Naval Computer Telecommunications Station Far East; Ship Repair Facility; Naval Pacific Meteorological Oceanographic Facility Yokosuka

Population: 23,000 military and civilian personnel

Facilities: Navy Exchange; NFCU; Nations Bank; USAA Federal Credit Union; USN hospital/dental; Child care; DOD elementary and high schools; undergraduate and graduate opportunities

Housing: 2,469 homes and apartments; 18- to 30-month waiting list; E-1 to E-3 and GS-11 and below are not eligible for government quarters

Internet: PWC Yokosuka (www.pwcyoko.navy.mil); Commander, Naval Forces Japan (www.cnfj.navy.mil); Fleet Activities, Yokosuka (<http://metoc.npmof.navy.mil/yoko/cfay.htm>)

Yokosuka is ideally located to give Sailors the opportunity to study Japan's past or catch a glimpse of her future. Sailors can travel to the nearby port city of Shimoda for the Black Ship Festival, which commemorates Commodore Matthew C.

Perry's landing in 1853 or board a train for the 55-mile trip to Tokyo and the whirls, blinks, whiz bangs and blips of the latest-and-greatest gizmos to hit the Akihabara electronics district.

Sailors may be hesitant to be stationed where English is a secondary language. Step outside the main gate at Yokosuka Naval Base, and everything from street signs and billboards to store and restaurant displays are written in those distinctive and elaborately decorative Japanese characters called *kanji*.

But after a few months and a few language lessons, most Sailors grow accustomed to the cultural differences and begin exploring – and there is so much to discover!

At the *Yokosuka-chuo* train station, which is just a short walk from the main gate, Sailors can buy a ticket north to Tokyo or south to the beach at the tip of the Miura peninsula.

For Sailors who like having a wide variety of recreational options at their fingertips, Yokosuka is the place. At the 300,000-square-foot fleet recreation center located within footsteps of the waterfront, Sailors have access to a huge gym, several racquetball courts, a state-of-the-art weight room, outdoor gear issue and even an Internet café.

Selecting orders to Yokosuka, Japan, may be the best move you ever make. Few duty stations offer such a diverse selection of recreational opportunities. So get out there, learn a little Japanese and make the most of your tour in the "Land of the Rising Sun."

Information provided by JO1 Lance R. Lindley, Commander, Naval Forces Japan, Public Affairs.



The Peace Statue at the center of Nagasaki Peace Park, was erected in 1955 in memory of those who died from the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II. The 90-foot bronze statue was dedicated as an appeal for lasting world peace.

Sasebo

Are you looking for adventure and excitement? Simply say the magic words, "I want orders to Sasebo, Japan."

Now, I know what you're thinking. "Wait a minute, isn't that

halfway around the world? They don't speak English there, do they? I don't even like raw fish." Relax. Sasebo *is* halfway around the world and English *isn't* the official language, but don't worry, they have hamburgers too.

If you're willing to accept the challenges and opportunities of an overseas assignment, we'd like to welcome you to Fleet Activities, Sasebo – a base with a reputation as the "best-kept secret in the

Pacific." We've got it all – a great location, a thriving recreation program, a commitment to Sailors' quality of life, professional opportunities, and an unrivaled relationship with the local Japanese community, with numerous events throughout the year where military members and Japanese citizens celebrate their special friendship. The largest of these events, the Saikai-American Festival, attracts an estimated 100,000 people to *Nimitz* Park for two days of band concerts, sporting events, cultural exchanges and theatrical performances.

Much of Sasebo's shopping and restaurant areas are within easy walking distance of the base. For those who want to explore the island, trains and buses make it easy and affordable.

The surrounding mountains, harbor and countryside are breathtaking, and they offer great recreational opportunities such as grass skiing, hiking and camping. Or you can head for the coast for water-skiing, kayaking, sailing, swimming, surfing or scuba-diving.

Our location, on Kyushu Island, the southernmost main island of Japan, also means you'll have quick and easy access to the entertainment and shopping attractions of the island's largest city, Fukuoka City.

Fukuoka City offers entertainment such as Japanese baseball, concerts, shopping and a thriving nightlife. About 90 minutes south of the base is Nagasaki, where you can visit the Atomic Bomb Museum.

The MWR department at Sasebo has proven its commitment to its Sailors, having won the Bureau of Naval Personnel Holiday Programming Award four of the past five years. But, it's not just during the holidays that MWR Sasebo shines. Some highlights of their services include: the newest and most popular dance club in the area called Galaxies Club; fantastic tour packages to exotic destinations; an active single

Sasebo's Chuo Park incorporates several small playgrounds into the layout of a typical neighborhood city block. This "neighborhood" allows children to practice their driving skills, obey pedestrian crossing signs, and enjoy themselves in the playground.

Photo by PattiJAW Essex D. Moore, III



A bustling city street in downtown Sasebo City

Sailors program; plus numerous restaurants, athletic programs and recreational facilities.

Fleet Activities Sasebo provides facilities for six forward-deployed ships and for the visiting ships of the U.S. 7th Fleet. USS *Belleau Wood* (LHA 3), USS *Dubuque* (LPD 8), USS *Fort McHenry* (LSD 43) and USS *Germantown* (LSD 42) are stationed in Sasebo as the Navy's only permanently forward-deployed amphibious ready group, Amphibious Squadron 11. The only minesweepers in Japan, USS *Patriot* (MCM 7) and USS *Guardian* (MCM 5), are also located in Sasebo.

There are two housing areas in Sasebo, but the number of units available is much less than the military population, which means that most accompanied personnel arriving in Sasebo will live in a Japanese house or apartment until housing is available. Living in a Japanese home and

community is an adjustment, but one that is easily done with the help of the many organizations and offices on base.

Because we aren't the biggest base in the region, you'll get more one-on-one mentoring and more attention from service providers, such as the expanding Navy Campus program.

In Sasebo, you can see and experience Japanese culture first hand. Sasebo City and its residents are gracious hosts and they go out of their way to welcome and introduce you to their culture.

So remember, just six little words can change your life, "I want orders to Sasebo, Japan." Go ahead, pick up the phone and give your detailee a call – before someone else beats you to it.

Information provided by Susan Baldwin, Public Affairs Officer, Fleet Activities Sasebo.

Fast Facts

Location: Located on Sasebo Bay, on the northwest corner of the island of Kyushu; 30 miles northwest of Nagasaki.

Major commands: COMPHIBRON 11; USS *Belleau Wood* (LHA 3); Commander, U.S. Fleet Activities Sasebo; Fleet Industrial Supply Center; U.S. Naval Pacific Meteorology & Oceanography Det.

Population: 5,500 military, DOD civilians and their families

Facilities: Bowling alley; restaurants, gas station; all hands club; gyms; medical/dental clinics; commissary; exchange; chapel; post office; banks; DOD school

Housing: High rise apartments, duplexes and town houses; waiting list 12 to 24 months; government housing not available for E-3 and below or GS-6 and below

Internet: U.S. Fleet Activities Sasebo (www.cfes.navy.mil)

Photo courtesy of Japan National Tourist Office



The "onsen," or open-air bath, is a popular diversion for the Japanese.



A "Dragon Boat" prepares to take part in Okinawa's annual racing event. The races date back to the 13th century and are believed to bring comfort to the dead and good luck to fishermen.

Okinawa

Pack away your parkas and mothball the peacoats – you won't need them in Okinawa. A subtropical climate and balmy tradewinds keep this jewel of Navy duty stations warm, even when the rest of Japan is shivering.

Okinawa is a true island paradise. Perfect for those who enjoy year-round warm weather, tropical breezes, sunny

beaches and all manner of water sports, Okinawa has some of the best coral reef diving and golfing in the world.

Eight hundred and fifty miles south of Tokyo and only 350 miles east of Taipei, Okinawa is the largest island in the Ryukyu chain – more than a score of nearly untouched islands with pristine beaches and coral reefs abundant with life. Often referred to as the "Keystone of the Pacific" due to its strategic location to Western Pacific deployment routes and significant Far Eastern locales, the

island itself is a little more than 60 miles long and varies from three to 18 miles in width.

Okinawa is an immensely popular 7th Fleet liberty location and supports a surprisingly large naval presence. More than 3,000 active-duty Navy personnel live and work here. When you add family members and civilian employees, the total Navy population on Okinawa is more than 6,000, with some two dozen different commands and detachments located throughout the

southern half of the island.

The Okinawan people and their culture are unique. Although it belongs to Japan today, Okinawa – or the Kingdom of the Ryukus, as it was known long ago – has origins that are Chinese, Malaysian and Indonesian, with other Pacific regional influences. A peaceful, family-oriented people, the Okinawans have their own language, religions and traditions.

Sailors and their families stationed here enjoy participating in many Japanese and Okinawan festivals and cultural events throughout the year – the giant tug-o-war, bull fights, Eisa dance festivals, international parades, and Kadena Air Base's own AmericaFest – to name only a few.

The New Year in Japan brings with it countless social activities and celebrations. One of the most popular is the "Dragon Boat" races held in early May when teams of men or women row elaborately decorated "Dragon Boats" in competition against other military and Japanese teams.

The history of the race dates back to the early 13th century in China, when a *ruari* named Kutsugen threw himself into the river to prove his loyalty to the Emperor. Later, when the King of Ryukyu heard the story, he was so impressed that he decided to hold an annual race on Okinawa. It is believed that the races bring comfort to the dead and good luck to local fishermen.

Those who come to the race to row or to cheer for their teams find a fun-filled day of festival activities, with booths serving a variety of cultural foods such as fried rice, tempura or yakisoba. Other booths feature games and rides for children, much like a county fair but with a definite Okinawan flair.

Life in Okinawa consists of more than just experiencing a new culture. Sometimes it is just as fun to share American culture and traditions with others. That is exactly what the members of the First Class Petty Officers' Association on Okinawa do when they visit a nearby school. Whether by teaching children how to carve a pumpkin and clean out the gooey insides for Halloween, by explaining how to prepare a traditional Thanksgiving dinner, or by painting Easter eggs for the children to find in the springtime, Sailors and their families try to bring a bit of America to Okinawa.

AmericaFest is another opportunity for military members to share American culture. This year AmericaFest featured music groups "Allure" and "Great White" and a spectacular fireworks display.

Year round you will find a wealth of activity and beauty to enjoy on Okinawa, with the long summer's kaleidoscope of brilliant flowers, dazzling white beaches, stunning coral reefs and beautiful sunsets. Whether you are engaging in a rich exchange of culture, enjoying the many outdoor activities, or simply watching a brilliant sun sink into the China Sea, you won't soon forget the time you spend in Okinawa.

Information provided by Fleet Activities Okinawa Public Affairs.

Fast Facts

Location: Made up of 72 islands, Okinawa is the main island in the Ryuku Archipelago.

Major commands: Naval Hospital, Camp Lester; COMPHIBGRU One/CTF 76; Personnel Support Det.; NAVCOMM Det.; Military Sealift Command; Naval Security Group Activity, Hanza; NCIS; Naval Air Pacific Repair Activity Det.; Fleet Imaging; Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74

Population: 30,000 military; 2,400 DOD civilians; 25,000 family members

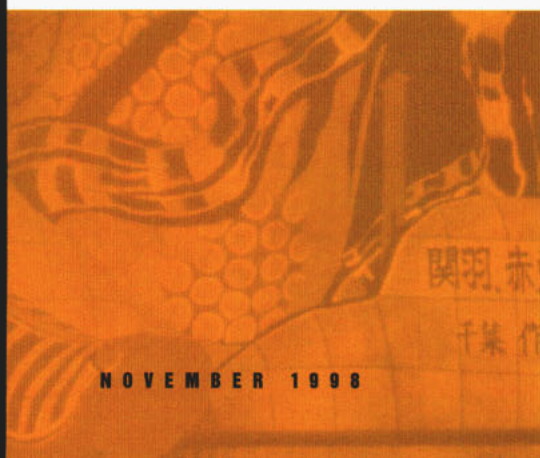
Facilities: DOD schools; medical; dental

Housing: 8,129 housing units

Internet: Commander Fleet Activity Okinawa (www.cfao.navy.mil); Marine Bases Japan (www.okr.usmc.mil); map of the island (www.sunlink.net/~maikey/map.htm)



Okinawa's Shuri-no-mon Gate reflects the ornate design of the island's many castles, shrines and temples.



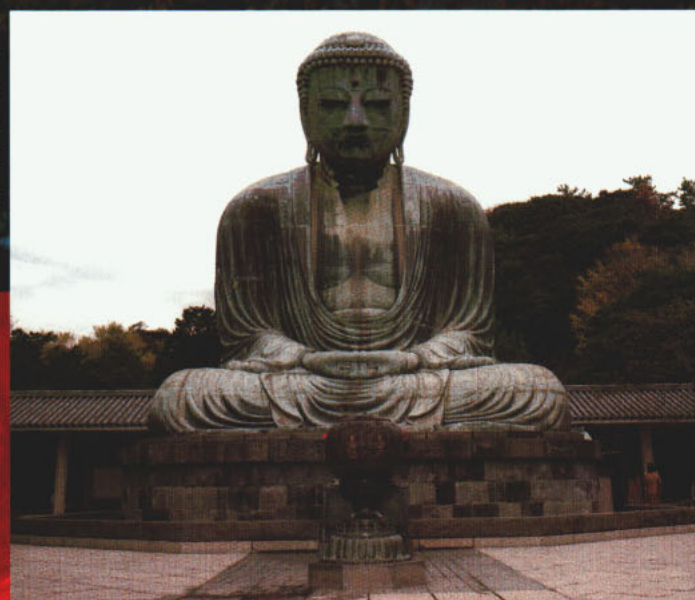
Okinawan dancer in traditional dress

Mt. Fuji, on the island of Honshu, is the highest mountain in Japan, rising 12,388 feet – often into the clouds. The Japanese have long considered it a sacred mountain and more than 50,000 pilgrims climb to its summit every year.



Photo courtesy of Japan National Tourist Office

The Diabatsu, or Great Buddha, in Kamakura, Japan, is a popular tourist attraction. The statue's restful expression reflects the Buddhist ideal of detachment from all desires and worldly things.



Atsugi

Imagine working in a small-town just a stone's throw from the world's largest city. Picture living on the ocean, near ancient temples and under one of the largest mountains in the world. Now imagine that there is an airport just down the road with flights to destinations throughout Asia – flights you could take for free. While you're daydreaming, why not toss in an 18-hole golf course right in your backyard.

Is the picture becoming clearer? Then welcome to Naval Air Facility (NAF) Atsugi, Japan. NAF Atsugi is situated in the heart of the Kanto Plain, with easy access to metropolitan Tokyo, cosmopolitan Yokohama, historic Kamakura and the awe-inspiring Mt. Fuji. It's conveniently located within an hour of numerous other U.S. military bases, including Camp Fuji, with its 18-hole golf course, and Yokota Air Base, a hub for military flights throughout the Western Pacific.

NAF Atsugi is not a resort, but it sure seems like one. In addition to the golfing, traveling and sightseeing, NAF Atsugi's MWR program hosts many events throughout the year that make it easy to enjoy the exciting opportunities of being stationed in Japan. In addition to ski trips, Mt. Fuji climbs and trips to Tokyo Disneyland, there are many events held in conjunction with the local community as well. These events include marathons, concerts, cherry blossom festivals, golf tournaments, Japanese "bon odori" dance festivals and Children's Day festivals.

And our Sailors and pilots work as hard as they play. We're the home of Carrier Air Wing-5 (CVW-5), the Navy's only permanently forward-deployed air



Photo by PHZ Anthony Puglian

Tokyo Disneyland is a modern playground for children and adults alike. It offers a great getaway day for any family stationed in Japan.

wing. As such, CVW-5 is able to build a uniquely strong partnership with USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63), the carrier on which they deploy. CVW-5's planes and pilots spend a lot of their time in the air, doing what they do best, and our maintenance and support crews stay on *Kitty Hawk* or on the practice strip at historic Iwo Jima.

Atsugi's biggest event of the year is the *Wings* air show, which brings more than half a million Japanese visitors to the base for a weekend of planes, static displays and flying. NAF Atsugi is the only U.S. naval air facility outside of CONUS that holds demonstration flights, and the show's popularity is a testimony to how exciting and intriguing our local hosts find our work, our base and our way of life.

Information provided by JO1 Lance Lindley, Commander, Naval Forces Japan Public Affairs.



Photo courtesy of Japan National Tourist Office

Fast Facts

Location: In Ayase city, 10 miles due west of Yokohama and 23 miles southwest of Tokyo.

Major commands: COMFAIRWESPAC; U.S. Naval Air Facility Atsugi; FASOTRAGRUPAC; Naval Pacific Meteorology & Oceanography Det.; Naval Air Pacific Repair Activity; Carrier Air Wing 5

Population: U.S. Navy - 3,406; DOD - 1,383; Family members - 1,751

Facilities: DOD schools; commissary; exchange; MWR gym, golf, bowling

Housing: On-base quarters available

Internet: Naval Air Facility Atsugi (www.atsugi.navy.mil)

Aircraft from every squadron attached to the only permanently forward-deployed airwing, CVW-5, fly in formation in front of Mt. Fuji.



Photo by GDB David Rott



Misawa



On the last day of the Nebuta Festival, floats that were pulled through the streets during the parade are floated onto the water for judging. A display of fireworks (hanabi) rounds out the evening.

When was the last time you were stationed at a base that boasted its own ski lodge, marina, beach, golf course, skeet range and 24-hour fitness center? Misawa has all of that and more.

Duty at Misawa in northern Japan is far different from anywhere you may have been stationed before. In addition to the Navy, Misawa Air Base also hosts U.S. Army, Marine Corps and Air Force units in conjunction with Japanese Air Self-Defense Forces. The camaraderie and interaction among all the services is unparalleled.

Opportunities abound for Sailors to join a team of 1,200 plus personnel,

ALL HANDS



Nebuta Festival in Aomori City.

Japanese youth march down Main Street in Misawa wearing traditional Japanese clothing during the annual Mikoshi Festival.



whose mission is support. In addition to the Naval Air Facility and Naval Security Group Activity, Misawa also is home to Naval Pacific Meteorology and Oceanography Det., Personnel Support Det., Patrol Wing 1 Det, and Mobile Mine Assembly Unit 12 – to name only a few. Nearly every rate is represented somewhere at NAF Misawa.

Unaccompanied Sailors can enjoy the Zumwalt Award-winning barracks and adjoining dining facility. Families can shop at our award-winning commissary and exchange facility. DOD Schools provide the children of NAF Misawa personnel with a standard of education parents can be proud of. Sailors can earn credits and work toward their degree by taking courses from Central Texas

College, University of Maryland and University of Oklahoma.

Misawa has some of the finest ski resorts and ice festivals in the country, attracting thousands of international tourists annually. The close proximity of these ski resorts and the wide range of MWR-sponsored activities keeps these activities very affordable.

Come see and enjoy for yourself the scenic wonders of northern Japan. Forget the congestion and noise of Tokyo and enjoy life in the peaceful, rural setting of Misawa. It could be your most exciting, challenging and rewarding tour yet.

Information provided by JO1 Lance Lindley, Commander, Naval Forces Japan, Public Affairs.

Fast Facts

Location: East of Lake Ogawara in a rural area of Aomori Prefecture. Aomori Prefecture makes up the eastern corner of Honshu, the main island of Japan.

Major commands: Naval Air Facility Misawa, Naval Security Group

Population: 16,000 military and civilian personnel

Facilities: Commissary; exchange; DOD school

Housing: 2,000 housing units; 68 three bedroom apartments; 68 two bedroom apartments; off-base housing also available

Internet: Naval Air Facility Misawa (www.cnfj.navy.mil/misawa.html)

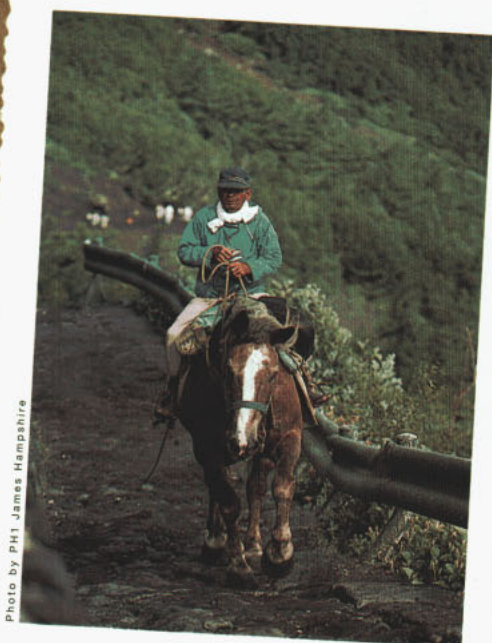


Photo by PHJ James Hampshire

Riding up Mt. Fugl.

You should climb
Mount Fujiyama once in
your life. Climb it
twice and you're
a fool.



Photo courtesy of Japan National Tourist Office

A torii gate at Miyajima.

Japan



Photo by PHC Ted Salois

A scenic, under-
water tunnel at
an aquarium
park in Tokyo.

The path of
in what is new
but men look
what is remote





Kaoru Hasegawa, age 21,
as a lieutenant in the
Japanese Imperial Navy.

Photos courtesy of Kaoru Hasegawa

Most people go to work in the morning and feel pretty certain they will return home at the end of the day. Most people aren't Japanese kamikaze pilots. For members of the Japanese Special Naval Attack Corps, a day at the office meant never coming home again.

Kaoru Hasegawa was 21 years old in 1945 and a lieutenant in the Japanese Imperial Navy. Assigned to the 405 "Ginga" (which in English means Galaxy) Corps, Hasegawa was in command of the 10th Ginga sub unit, the unit which was ordered to attack USS *Callaghan* (DD 792) and sink her at all costs.

came upon USS *West Virginia* (BB 48), which immediately opened fire. While trying to dodge the attack from *West Virginia*, his plane was hit by gunfire from *Callaghan*.

Callaghan watched as the Japanese plane disappeared into the ocean, then she turned – and in a moment of great courage and compassion – began the search for survivors.

"The skipper didn't know when – or if – another Japanese attack might happen, but he still stopped his ship to rescue us," said Hasegawa. "It was a

By JO2 Brigette Barnes

wonderful speech that I will never forget. He said, 'According to naval tradition, it is our duty to help any person in peril at sea, not only friends, but anybody.' Even today, that greatly moves my heart."

Hasegawa's meeting with the *Callaghan* survivors led to the establishment of an exchange program in which Japanese and American high school students visit each other's country to share their hopes for world peace. The program, co-sponsored by the Japan Youth Research Institute and

KAMIKAZE

"In a special attack mission, if you were successful you didn't come back," explained Hasegawa, through a translator in a recent interview. "But everyday death was right beside us, so it wasn't as great a shock to me to be given this mission."

Still, the pressure was intense. "The psychological pressure was tremendous when I got into the airplane, because the success of the mission meant my ultimate death."

On the morning of May 25, 1945, Hasegawa, his crew and 11 other *Francis* aircraft took off from mainland Japan with orders to fly toward the eastern part of Okinawa and attack the American destroyer.

"It started raining very hard, so we had to fly at an extremely low altitude – between 75 and 150 feet," explained Hasegawa. The conditions were so poor, in fact, that every other plane in his formation was forced to return to base. Hasegawa, now alone – with the pressure of the mission and the hopes of his country resting squarely and completely on his shoulders – went on.

At 10 a.m., he and his two-man crew

completely risky action. To this day, I am moved by the courageous actions he took."

Only Hasegawa and one other member of his crew, Warrant Officer Minato Yoshida, survived the crash. Hasegawa, having sustained a fracture to his right leg, was stabilized, transferred to USS *New Mexico* (BB 40) and then to the naval hospital on Guam. He remained a prisoner of war for 18 months before being returned to Japan. Yoshida was not so lucky. He died five hours after being pulled from the water and was given a burial at sea.

Two months later, *Callaghan* was sunk by another kamikaze attack and 48 crewmembers were killed.

For many years, Hasegawa could not think about – nor remember – much about that fateful day in 1945. But in 1995, 50 years later, Hasegawa met with members of *Callaghan* during a memorial ceremony. "I offered a flower wreath at the *Callaghan* Survivors Association," he said. "CAPT Haymark (executive officer aboard *Callaghan*) made a



Kaoru Hasegawa and the members of his aircrew prior to the fateful mission in 1945.

the Navy Memorial Foundation of the United States, had its kick off this past summer in Washington, D.C.

Hasegawa, now 74 years old and the president of an international corrugated packaging company, donated \$10,000 to the Navy Memorial Foundation, saying, "I would like to express my sincere gratitude on behalf of my subordinate and myself for the polite, gentleman-like human spirit of the U.S. naval tradition," he said.

Hasegawa said he lives everyday with the belief that all people who gave their lives for their country, no matter what side they were on, should be remembered and honored.

Barnes is a photojournalist assigned to All Hands.

CyberSailor

Well, after a month's hiatus (October was the Anyday in the Navy issue – if you haven't seen it, I highly recommend you pick one up because it's highly cool) your faithful cyber-servant is back to deliver to you, the Sailors of the U.S. Navy, the best of the cyber-scuttlebutt about new, innovative and informative websites. Since this month's issue of *All Hands* is devoted to Sailors in and around the Western Pacific, let's start there.

But before we do, can we get something straight? I receive hundreds of e-mails every week from webmasters all across the globe asking for feedback on their site. And if I had the opportunity I would critique each and every one right here in this column. Unfortunately, space is limited. So please don't be discouraged if you don't make "the big time" – so to speak. Hang in there and continue to update your site. If it is really hot, my intrepid staff will award it the coveted CyberSailor Site of Excellence (CSSOE) Award. The award has been designed and will be e-mailed to worthy webmasters soon.

One more thing, if you have any sites you really enjoy or would like to see me cover, please don't hesitate to e-mail me. Your ideas or comments are highly encouraged. Well, now that I got that off my chest... let's get going.

This month's featured sites cover some important areas in the Western Pacific – sites that transferring Sailors should definitely check out.

The first stop for anyone cruising the Pacific, should be at the site that covers the entire region, Commander, Pacific Fleet at www.cpf.navy.mil. While there click on the Pacific Fleet Directory for more websites. This listing is quite thorough. In fact, it has more sites than you can visit in a single session (unless you're REALLY bored and have NOTHING to do). From this point, you can visit Commander, U.S. 7th Fleet (www.c7f.navy.mil) and find out what our forces in the Western Pacific are up to.

The Navy area commanders in the region have some very useful sites as well. Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Japan (www.cnfj.navy.mil) opens the door to our presence in and around Japan, as well as providing

Cruising

the

PACIFIC



NAF Atsugi website



Fleet Activities Sasebo website



COMNAVFORJAPAN website



U.S. 7th Fleet website

Gator Aces

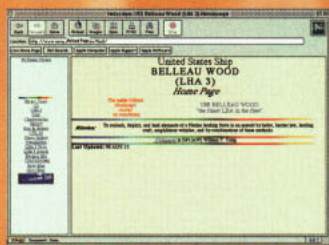
It's time to once again recognize some outstanding Navy websites.

This month it's the amphibious ships' turn.

Some sites are filled with GIFs and MIDI files and some are nothing more than plain text and a photo. As before, I visited each site as if I was about to be stationed on board and then compared the results with those gathered by my unbiased friend at Website Garage (www.websitegarage.com).

This month's winner doesn't have a lot of bells and whistles, but it's the quickest to load, is compatible with a variety of browsers and doesn't have any dead links or HTML design problems. So, I hereby award the coveted CyberSailor Site of Excellence Award (Gator Division) to USS *Belleau Wood* (LHA 3) at www.navy.mil/homepages/lha3. The ship's webmasters, DPI (AW) William T. Craig and PHI(AW) Essex D. Moore III, have done a great job providing balanced information about their ship.

In second and third place are USS *Saipan* (LHA 2) at www.spear.navy.mil/ships/lha2/index.html and USS *Frederick* (LST 1184) at www.salts.navy.mil/ships/frederick. And an honorable mention goes to USS *Nashville* (LPD 13) at www.spear.navy.mil/ships/lpd13.



USS *Belleau Wood* (LHA 3)



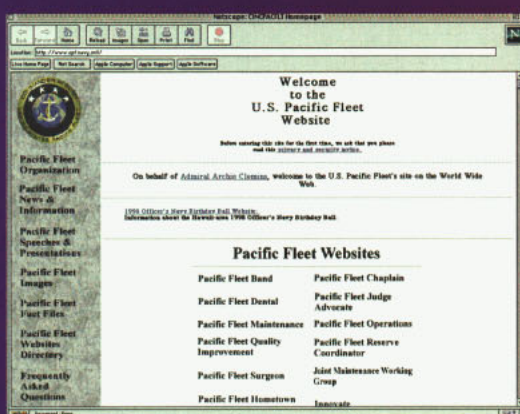
USS *Saipan* (LHA 2)



USS *Frederick* (LST 1184)

links to Navy installations in country such as Fleet Activities Sasebo (www.cfes.navy.mil) and NAF Atsugi (www.atsugi.navy.mil). In Korea, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea (144.59.63.170) has info on the Western Pacific's "best kept secret" – Fleet Activities Chinhae. Cruise to www.guam.navy.mil and learn about the island's many commands, including Commander, Naval Forces Marianas. While not an area commander, Logistics Force, Western Pacific (www.clfp.navy.mil) invites you to visit Singapore, while Navy Regional Contracting Center, Singapore (www.nrcc.navy.mil) has tons of stuff for Sailors planning a visit or accepting orders.

Before you get on a plane to the Far East, make sure you also check out all the non-Navy sites available for your destination. For example, if Japan is on your list, Schauwecker's Guide to Japan (www.japan-guide.com) gives a good overview of the country from a western perspective. The same type of site exists for almost every country in the world. Use your favorite search engine to find them.



U.S. Pacific Fleet website

Address for Life

Looking for a professional, personalized, lifetime e-mail address with a Navy twist? Check out www.navy.org. You can get a Navy.org e-mail address – FREE – that will remain unchanged no matter how many times you transfer. You don't even have to be on active duty. Even after you retire, e-mail received at your permanent Navy.org address will be automatically forwarded to your current e-mail account anywhere in the world... free.

Shipmates



Aviation Ordnanceman 3rd Class **Kevin T. Brown**

received the Navy/Marine Corps Medal for his extraordinary heroism while serving as a SAR Swimmer assigned to Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 5, Det. 1, on board USNS *Kilauea* (TAE 26). Brown put his own life in danger by disconnecting from his hoist to save the crewmember of a sinking vessel racked by Super Typhoon *Dale*.



Dental Technician 1st Class **Elizabeth C. Fernandez**

was named National Naval Dental Center, Bethesda, Md., 1997 Senior Sailor of the Year for her hard work, dedication and professionalism. Fernandez is currently assigned as Senior Enlisted Leader, Branch Dental Clinic, Patuxent River, Md.



Aerographer's Mate Airman **Jason M. Strobel**

from Philomath, Ore., was selected as Mobile Environmental Team Yokosuka, Japan, Junior Sea Sailor of the Quarter for providing weather support on board USS *Nimitz* (CVN 68) during Operation *Southern Watch* and on board USS *Chancellorsville* (CG 62) during RIMPAC '98.



Navy Counselor 1st Class (SW) **Linda K. Maclean**

from Lafayette, Ind., was selected as Afloat Training Group Pacific 1998 Sailor of the Quarter (2nd Quarter) for her dedicated service as Command Information Training Course coordinator.



Aviation Boatwain's Mate 2nd Class **James Elliott**

was selected as Naval Station Roosevelt Roads 1998 Junior Sailor of the Quarter (3rd Quarter). Elliott serves as fuels division accounting supervisor, divisional training petty officer, and information systems security manager. He also volunteers as a varsity girl's basketball coach at Roosevelt Roads High School.



Aviation Structural Mechanic Hydraulicsman 1st Class (AW) **David Benavidez**

was selected as Naval Air Pacific Repair Activity Atsugi, Japan, 1997 Sailor of the Year. Benavidez exhibited a high degree of professionalism in his duties as standard, depot-level maintenance, in-service repair and customer service coordinator for aircraft in the Western Pacific and European Theaters.

Did you know?

Kanji is the most complicated part of the Japanese written language. It includes many thousands of characters that have been adopted from the Chinese. Each **Kanji** is derived from a picture or combination of pictures and is ordered by the number of strokes it takes to draw the character.

Known as Siam until 1939, Thailand is the only Southeast Asian country not colonized by Europeans (although it did fall under Japanese occupation during World War II and was, nominally, a part of the Axis Powers). The ruins throughout northern Thailand are the remnants of kingdoms whose royal lineage extends all the way to the current king.

Japanese, a Ural-Altaic language linked to Korean, Hungarian, Turkish and Finnish, is the only language widely spoken in Tokyo. The spoken language is called *Nihon-go*, but the language taught in schools and spoken on television, *Koku-go*, is the de facto national language. There are also numerous regional dialects.

Singapore is a small island country in Southeast Asia consisting of a large island and more than 50 smaller islands. The large island, which is also called Singapore, covers 221 square miles. The other islands, more than half of which are uninhabited, have a combined area of about 17 square miles.

Japan consists of four major islands (Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu) and thousands of smaller ones with a combined total of 17,000 miles of coastline. Two-thirds of the country is covered in mountains. Japan has more than 70 volcanoes, which make up part of the Pacific's "Ring of Fire" – an enormous circle of volcanoes along the edge of the Pacific Plate that runs through the Philippines, New Zealand, California and Alaska.